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Approved For Release 2001/12/04 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0080

REPORT NO.

25X1A

TOPIC Koethen Airfield.

EVALUATION see below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 12 June 1951

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REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

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REMARKS

Paragraphs 1 - 4 supplement

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Paragraphs 5 - 8 supplement and correct

SOURCE

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1. On 4 May 1951, the aircraft at Koethen airfield were arranged as follows: 30 jet fighters with red three-digit numbers in two rows in front of the hangars along the road to Baasdorf; 2 jet fighters, whose markings could not be seen, in a hangar; 14 jet fighters with unidentified markings, 3 single-engine aircraft and 5 biplanes in front of the flight control station;

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2. A radio installation with four masts was located in the western extension of the runway, about 600 meters from the end of the runway, and about 200 meters south of triangulation point 92.2. (3) The masts, 8 meters high, were subdivided at three points probably by an insulation piece at which guy wires were fitted. An antenna wire led from each mast to the hut in the middle of the square. A short metal rod was on top of the hut, but no wires were seen leading from the rod to the masts. Each time a jet fighter took off or landed at the field, a Soviet soldier stepped out of the hut, glanced at the plane for a short time and then went back into the hut.

3. A row of red lamps extended both east and west of the road to Baasdorf, at a right angle to the runway. A radio mast about 8 meters high with a tent next to it was seen in the eastern extension of the runway, about 800 meters from the end of the runway. (4)

4. An AA gun emplacement was located in the field area, about 70 meters south of the firing range. Two guns of an estimated 37-mm caliber were seen there.

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5. On 12 May, the aircraft at the field were parked in the following arrangement: 9 jet fighters on the western end of the runway; 2 jet fighters and 2 biplanes in a hangar which was partially open; 1 biplane in front of the hangar;

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Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth:	HR 70-2
Date:	28 July 78
By:	018

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and 4 jet fighters behind a hangar. There was no flying between noon and 6 p.m., although the weather was good. (5) All the jet fighters had black two-digit numbers. A jet fighter was repeatedly started but no starting devices were seen near it. The jet fighters on the western edge of the field was being refueled from a tank truck.

6. A radio truck with three whip antennae and a trailer were parked between the runway and the taxiway, about 500 meters east of the parked aircraft. A radio installation with four masts, two of which were placed parallel to the runway, was located in the western extension of the runway, about 100 meters south of triangulation point 92.2. The mast and a tent, previously reported, were still in the extension of the runway, about 800 meters east of Koethen-Baasdorf road. (4) A tent was seen about 500 meters west of triangulation point 88.7. Another tent and two watchdogs leashed in front of it was seen about 650 meters northwest of triangulation point 94.4.
7. A row of eight lamps, alternately green and red, extended about 200 meters west of Koethen-Baasdorf road, perpendicular to the runway. East of the road there was a row of four lamps which could not be seen since it extended toward the east. The lamps along the eastern runway extension were still there.
8. Five 37-mm rotating AA guns and [REDACTED], parked closeby, were seen about 150 meters northwest of triangulation point 91.6, west of the road to Baasdorf.

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Comments.

- (1) The two fighter regiments stationed in Koethen possibly differ by red three-digit numbers ranging between 500 and 599 and by black two-digit numbers. According to previous reports, more red than black numbers have been seen.
- (2) No information has been received from other sources indicating that two types of jet aircraft with swept-back wings are stationed in Koethen. It is, however, believed possible that in addition to single-seater MiG-15s two-seater MiG-15s or LA-17s are also stationed in Koethen as on other fighter airfields in the Soviet Zone of Germany.
- (3) The radio installation is probably an Adcock DF station.
- (4) This is a landing beacon.
- (5) It was previously [REDACTED] that no flights were made from 12 to 18 May 1951. This is now corrected.

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